

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Summer Reading Assignment—2011

Mrs. J. Dunlap, Mrs. P. Phelan and Mr. A. Shoenberger

Welcome to Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. This course requires you to read, analyze, and discuss literature in depth and to write about literature in a manner which demonstrates knowledge and critical thinking abilities across various literary genres. The works listed below should be available at local libraries, but we encourage you to obtain a personal copy that will allow you to highlight and write in the works as you desire.

A. LITERARY WORKS

Read **BOTH** of the novels listed below and complete the note-taking assignment. [Notes on these novels are to be handwritten and in your own words—no notes from other sources; 3-5 pgs. min. for each novel.] Due date for notes: the first day of class.

1. *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver

❖ Notes should include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ list of characters with descriptions ➤ plot summary ➤ themes (<i>in sentence form</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ use of the multiple narrators. ➤ the history of the Congo in the 1970s. ➤ the clash between American and Congolese values and cultures. |
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2. *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin

❖ Notes should include:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ list of characters with descriptions ➤ plot summary ➤ themes (<i>in sentence form</i>) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ the attitude toward women. ➤ the history of the Creole culture in Louisiana in the late 1800s. ➤ the biography of Kate Chopin. |
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When you return to school in August, we will devote approx. 6-9 weeks to the discussion of these two works, including **in-class essays** written on both novels. You will be asked to reflect on the writers, their styles, the content of the novels, and the themes. This will not be a “test” requiring memorization of details. It will be analytical essays which demonstrate to the teachers your writing ability and literary analysis skills.

B. STUDY GUIDE

Purchase your own copy of Barron’s *AP English Literature and Composition*, 3rd edition (2010) (approx. \$17.00). Study and learn the literary terms in the glossary at the end of the book. [The AP study book will be used throughout the year and may be purchased at all area bookstores or at Amazon.com. If a newer edition is released over the summer, please purchase that one.]

C. PERSONAL WRITING

Each of you will be writing personal statements as part of the college admissions process. Write a 300-500 word personal statement essay on **ONE** of the topics below. It should be a well-developed essay, double-spaced, 12 font. Let this essay **really** let us know who you are (and please don’t use it to brag about your accomplishments; the college admissions officers aren’t enamored with those kinds of essays).

TOPIC CHOICES:

- What has been your most profound or surprising intellectual experience? [Duke University]
- What man or woman in history has influenced or impressed you in a significant way? Explain.

DUE DATE: The personal statement essay must be postmarked **NO LATER THAN Friday, June 24th**. Mail to:

Mrs. Phelan, 612 Forest Lair, Tallahassee, FL 32312. If you will be out of town on a mission or at a camp, mail your statement **BEFORE** you leave.

D. RECOMMENDED READINGS

The following is a list of suggested readings beyond the required. Many of these works will be covered in the Advanced Placement curriculum and all will greatly enhance your literary background for study in AP.

<i>The Aeneid</i> --Virgil	<i>Going After Cacciato</i> -- O’Brien	<i>Mythology</i> --Hamilton
<i>As I Lay Dying</i> --Faulkner	<i>Heart of Darkness</i> --Conrad	<i>Obasan</i> — Kogawa
Crime and Punishment—Dostoyevsky	<i>Hedda Gabler</i> —Ibsen	<i>Othello</i> —Shakespeare
<i>Death of a Salesman</i> --Miller	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> --Wilde	<i>A Prayer for Owen Meany</i> --Irving
<i>A Doll House</i> --Ibsen	<i>Macbeth</i> --Shakespeare	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> --Hosseini
<i>Enemy of the People</i> --Ibsen	<i>Master Builder</i> --Ibsen	<i>Twelfth Night</i> --Shakespeare
<i>Frankenstein</i> —Shelley	<i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i> --Hardy	<i>Waiting for Godot</i> —Beckett

E. EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to earn extra credit, please read the short novel *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. Although a work of fiction, the characters come alive in this work and learn both the importance and the love of reading as their books bring them together, help them survive difficult times, and enrich their lives.

We’re really looking forward to both the fun and learning that we’ll experience together next year, and most important of all...

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!